

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10700 180325Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /045 W
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R 180230Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2232
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 10700

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, SHUM, CB, VS
SUBJECT: REPORTED VIETNAMESE REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

REF: (A) BANGKOK 1489 (B) STATE 14017 (C) USDLO HONG KONG
IR 6 842 0204 77

1. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED VIET-NAM'S FORCIBLE REPATRIATION TO CAMBODIA LAST DECEMBER OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN HA TIEN (REF A). ASKED RECENTLY ABOUT THE REPORT, NEWLY ARRIVED CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HA TIEN WHO ARE CURRENTLY AT LAEM SING BOAT CAMP AGREED IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF THAT THE REPATRIATIONS WERE A ONE-TIME AFFAIR IN WHICH A TOTAL OF FORTY CAMBODIANS, INCLUDING SOME VERY YOUNG, WERE LOADED ONTO TWO TRUCKS AND SENT BACK ACROSS THE BORDER. THE VICTIMS HAD THEIR ARMS BOUND BEHIND THEIR BACKS AND WERE BLINDFOLDED. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY REACHED THE BORDER, WORD SPREAD THROUGHOUT HA TIEN THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXECUTED.
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ONE ELDERLY SINO-VIETNAMESE NOTED THAT THE LOCAL POPULATION WAS HORRIFIED OVER THE INCIDENT.

2. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE ACTION WAS MOST LIKELY A LOCAL ONE. SEVERAL COMMUNISTS HAD BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY KILLED IN HA TIEN, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WERE RESPONSIBLE. IN RE-

TALIATION, THEY ROUNDED UP CAMBODIANS WILY-NILY AND LOADED THEM ONTO TWO TRUCKS, EXCLUDING THOSE REFUGEES WHO COULD PROVE THEY WERE MEMBERS OF A HA TIEN FAMILY OR WHO HAD MONEY TO BRIBE THE SOLDIERS.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE DECEMBER INCIDENT IN HA TIEN, CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THAILAND FROM VIET-NAM CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE TREATMENT THEY RECEIVE FROM VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IS NOT BAD. IN THE WORDS OF ONE, "AT LEAST IT IS NO WORSE THAN THE WAY THE VIETNAMESE REGIME TREATS ITS OWN PEOPLE." UNHCR OFFICIALS WORKING IN THE AREA CONCUR IN THIS JUDGMENT.

4. U.S. MISSION GENEVA MAY WISH TO PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 1 AND 2 TO UNHCR.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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